



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

APR 29 2014

Mr. Ed Smith
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
3115 S. Grand Blvd., Suite 650
St. Louis, Missouri 63118

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is in response to your email of April 18, 2014, which attached a letter signed by several community members regarding Engineering Management Support Inc.'s work at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency appreciates hearing concerns from West Lake neighbors.

The letter references EMSI's January 14, 2014 report, entitled "Evaluation of Possible Impacts of a Potential Subsurface Smoldering Event on the Record of Decision – Selected Remedy for Operable Unit-1 at the West Lake Landfill," prepared for the West Lake Landfill OU-1 Respondents. The letter requests that the EPA dismiss EMSI from "any current or future role at" the West Lake Landfill site.

Work is conducted by the Respondents and their contractors at the site under EPA oversight. Your email cites EPA's Office of Research and Development's observations on EMSI's report to claim that EMSI is putting the community in danger. ORD's observations demonstrate the strong oversight of EMSI's work by EPA. While ORD's observations did not agree with all the conclusions in the EMSI report's Executive Summary, no danger to the community resulted, nor could have resulted, from this technical exchange.

The EPA, along with our state and federal partners, is committed to protecting the health of people living and working near the West Lake landfill. Work done by the Respondents has been, and will continue to be, done under the EPA's careful oversight. ORD's review of the EMSI report confirms the EPA's commitment to thoroughly review all documents, work plans and other material associated with the site submitted by the Respondents. Should the EPA find the Respondents' work, including that done by EMSI, inadequate, this agency will promptly take appropriate action to protect the health and safety of West Lake's neighbors.

If you have further questions, please contact Jeff Field at (913) 551-7548.

Sincerely,

Karl Brooks



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